



City of Ridgecrest
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
499-5105

A.C.T.I.O.N. Task Force
Kerr McGee Community Center Meeting Rooms
September 12, 2011
3:00 pm

Minutes

Committee Members: Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter, City Councilman Chip Holloway, Chief of Police Ron Strand

Recording Secretary: Lori Blowers, Administrative Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3pm by Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by everyone present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: There was a motion from Ron Strand to approve the agenda, second by Ron Carter.
All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was a motion to approve the minutes by Ron Strand, second by Ron Carter to
APPROVE THE MINUTES for March 14, 2011. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter –Would like to see how the group can continue to support Teen Court, SARB, Conflict Resolution, YES (Boys & Girls Club), Ridgecrest Financial Recovery Team programs with current budget issues. Ridgecrest Financial Recovery Team is a group of community leaders working with Kevin McCarthy to bring more revenue in to the community. This group is attempting to get Kevin McCarthy to put in a bill that will help our city. We bring in less revenue than cities our size because we don't have the tax base due to the land of the navy base. Want to find money to do conflict resolution with police officers, teachers, etc. to keep a supportive and positive community we currently have. This will cost about \$5,000 to \$6,000 that the city or school budgets don't have. Do we still want to have the committee? What should the focus, goals, and objectives be? How often do we want to meet?

Councilman Chip Holloway – Some of the reasons why this committee was developed have dissolved and haven't resurfaced up to this point. Some of the budget cuts coming down the road could create new challenges. Suggests group meets every other month.

Chief Strand – Realignment is significant and will have a great impact on our community. A significant number of individuals that are normally housed in prison will become the responsibility of the county. The county is not receiving enough money to handle such a significant amount of prisoners. It's being sold as a money saver and the idea is that the county and cities can program these prisoners better than the state. Due to lack of funds, misdemeanors will be decriminalized and felonies will be decreased to about 10% of their time. Our county doesn't have enough bed space. The daily reporting centers are going to be in Bakersfield. The states say that 1,020 people that normally would be on parole will be on probation. Superior court says it's more about 1,800. Could be catastrophic or if the funding is there it could be a benefit. The state hasn't been very good at rehabilitating

everybody. There is a potential of reducing the amount of people that cycle through the system, but not without the programs and sufficient incarceration. **Mr. Carter** – SARB can be used for out of control behavior. Do you need to find more funding for Teen Court assuming we will have more young people getting in trouble? **Chief** – We need more focus on the kids. Teen court works and would like to work more with probation for more sanctions on the kids who didn't participate in teen court. We're accepting kids in teen court that we wouldn't have accepted two years ago because of how probation works. If things go as proposed right now it will be bad, but there's a possibility that things could change. Want to create a workshop in 2012 for management team on how to deal with these changes. ACTION should remain intact for the future hot issues that come up and need to be addressed by the community when necessary.

Odessa Newman-Staples – Believes this committee is very vital the community and would like to see community involvement. We have so many organizations that are working independently protecting their turf. She would like to see this committee being used as a catalyst to bring everyone together. Believes we have weakened ourselves by not having the meetings on a regular basis. People rearrange their schedules thinking it will be cancelled. Have people bring their challenges. Education is the key. At the end of October, she's hoping to do red ribbon week for drug awareness. Keep as community forum. Thinks we should meet once a month.

Final group decision: Meet every other month at 4:00 p.m. Next meeting November, 14, 2011.

UPDATES ON STRATEGY/ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. **School Reports** – Officer Franco – Not present. Chief stated everything appears to be ok. Administrators at the high schools have been pro-active, which has eliminated previous issues.
2. **Neighborhood Watch** – Andy Pudgorski. Has attended four meetings in the last year since employed. Meeting at Immanuel Christian School tomorrow to establish a new group. They have installed thirteen cameras recently. Most groups are pretty established at this time. PACT volunteers and Andy try to patrol the streets as much as they can. Commander Henry Wilson is stepping down. Fifty-five volunteers on the books and about thirty are active. Graffiti is terrible and off the charts. Trying new techniques and got surveillance going. Applications aren't being returned for new Graffiti removal volunteers.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Next meeting suggestion by Odessa Newman-Staples is to have a featured speaker from the school district to update the group on the latest and greatest events/news. This would provide an opportunity for the school district to educate the community with concern they have, programs available, etc. Find a featured speaker for future meetings with various other groups.

ADJOURNMENT – The official meeting was adjourned by Mayor Pro Tem Ron Carter.